

# Eyak Echo

ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS

Native Village of Eyak | 25th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch, 2018



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## Employee List

### TRIBAL COUNCIL

Darrel Olsen..... Chairman  
Mark Hoover..... Vice Chairman  
Pam Smith..... Secretary-Treasurer  
Tom Andersen..... Council Member  
Jack Hopkins..... Council Member

### ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Cindy Bradford..... Deputy Health Director  
Kristel Rush..... Physician/Medical Director  
Florellyn Adajar..... Certified Nursing Assistant  
Tiffany Beedle..... Outreach Enrollment Specialist  
MaryCris Cariño..... Medical Assistant  
Cindy Frohnapfel..... Office Systems Coordinator  
Altana Hamilton..... Patient Advocate  
Brian Iutzi..... Physician  
Marleen Moffitt..... Child Welfare Coordinator  
Victoria Peterson..... Care Coordinator  
Nicole Piche..... Registered Nurse  
Susan Powell..... Behavioral Health Clinician  
Berna Quemado..... Certified Nursing Assistant/  
Patient Services  
Matthew Rush..... Behavioral Health Clinician  
Karin Siebenmorgen..... Registered Nurse  
Jessica Weaver..... Family Program Coordinator

### ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER

Brooke Johnson..... Cultural Director  
Audrey Cunningham..... Gift Shop Manager

### NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

Kerin Kramer..... Executive Director  
Jim Gittleson..... Finance Director  
Steve Bambakidis..... IT Director  
Katie Goodale..... Tribal Family Services Director  
Bert Adams..... Tribal Public Works Director  
John Whissel..... Environmental Director  
Sarah Kathrein..... Tribal Judicial Systems Administrator  
Denna Francischetti..... Human Resources Manager  
Reyna Newirth..... Executive Administrative Assistant/  
Office Manager  
Laura Blackadar..... Staff Accountant  
Rebecca Calfina..... Administrative Assistant  
Belen Cook..... Wellbeing Coordinator  
Joe Cook..... Maintenance  
Cheryl Eleshansky..... ICWA Coordinator  
Celeste Gasmen..... Accounting Technician  
Jackie Ladd..... Elder Services Coordinator  
Sean O'Brien..... Tribal Public Works Project Manager  
James Paley..... Environmental & Natural Resources Engineer  
Ivy Patton..... Environmental Coordinator  
Clark Pearson..... Environmental Remediation Coordinator  
Andy Pfeiffer..... IT Coordinator  
Matt Piche..... Natural Resources Coordinator  
Lennette Ronnegard..... Enrollment Clerk  
Kaaren Rowland..... Senior Accountant

### TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Brent Rowland..... Tribal Enterprises General Manager  
Scott Aiken..... Boat Captain/Maintenance  
Bob Ladd..... Prince William Marina Manager

### THE CORDOVA TIMES

Annette Potter..... Managing Editor  
Vivian Kennedy..... Administrative Assistant  
Emily Messner..... Staff Reporter/Photographer



# 25th Annual Sobriety Celebration & Memorial Potlatch Committee

**Sobriety Chairman:** Mark Hoover

**Event Coordinator:** Belen Cook

Joe Cook	Brian Iutzi
Kerin Kramer	Andy Pfeiffer
Shirley Cain	Robert Cunningham
Brent Rowland	Celeste Gasmen
Olga Morris	Katie Goodale
Reyna Newirth	Denna Francischetti
Kaaren Rowland	Jess Weaver
John Whissel	Brooke Johnson
Jackie Ladd	Cindy Bradford
Bob Ladd	Susie Powell
Matt Piche	Berna Quemado
Rebecca Calfina	Tiffany Beedle
Matt Rush	Cindy Frohnapfel
Cheryl Eleshansky	Altana Hamilton
Laura Blackadar	MaryCris Carino
Scott Aiken	Karin Siebenmogen
Sarah Kathrein	Nicole Piche
Todd Ladd	Kristel Rush
Jimmy Paley	Kari Collins





## Congratulations Sean O'Brien



### 25th Annual Sobriety Celebration Logo Contest Winner

Long and short  
sleeved T-shirts  
available  
for \$21  
at the NVE office

## Moms, Pops and Tots!

### AGES BIRTH TO 4 YEARS OLD

Please join our playgroup! A place for children and parents to explore developmental issues and build on your child's strengths through large-motor skills play, small-motor skills play, pretend play and sensory play.

**Mondays 10 a.m. to noon**  
at the Masonic Lodge throughout the school year

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT Jessica Weaver at 424-2245

## ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER



**Open Craft Nights**  
Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.

**Ikumat Dance Practice**  
Littles Mondays at 6 p.m.  
Dancers Thursdays at 6 p.m.

**ICC Annual  
Membership Dinner**  
January 22nd, 2019  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**GIFT SHOP HOURS**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Moonlight Madness**  
**Fridays 5 - 8 p.m.**

**ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER**  
**110 NICHOLLOFF WAY**  
**CORDOVA, AK**  
**907-424-7903**  
**WWW.NVEYAK.COM**





## ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

## *Ilanka launches new opioid treatment program*

BY EMILY MESNER

*The Cordova Times*

**T**he Ilanka Community Health Center is now offering medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction.

The health center's behavioral health coordinator Matt Rush spoke about new treatment options and the nation's ongoing opioid epidemic on Nov. 10 during NVE's 25th Annual Sobriety Celebration.

Opioids, a class of drug used to reduce pain by blocking pain message centers in the brain, include OxyContin, Vicodin, morphine, fentanyl and heroin.

Misuse of these drugs can be deadly.

The clinic began offering medication assisted treatment with opioid blockers Suboxone and Vivitrol on Nov. 7, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies.

Suboxone partially blocks opioid receptors in the brain, while Vivitrol acts as a full blocker, preventing any high from alcohol or opioids.

"It's clear that traditional treatment is not working with opioid use disorder," Matt said, given the 91 percent relapse rate for people seeking traditional treatment with opioid use disorders.

Traditional treatment might include short and long-term treatment, intensive outpatient treatment and treatment based on the 12-step program.

All traditional treatment is built on complete absence of drugs and alcohol, with no medication or medical help, Rush said. "That's not to say that there's not effective things with traditional treatment, there certainly are, but with this addiction, it needs help and we need to find some help and we believe we've found it."

Rural Alaska residents with opioid use disorder have added challenges, he said.

Prior to Ilanka clinic's new program, patients would have to travel to Anchorage, paying roughly \$300 in air fare, to receive a Suboxone prescription, with no accountability and support, he said.

Add to that the challenges of small-town



“It's clear that traditional treatment is not working with opioid use disorder”

Alaska, where “everybody knows everybody” potentially creating barriers for the patient seeking treatment. The clinic's program

hopes to remove all the barriers, Matt said.

To schedule a consultation or for more information, call the clinic at 907-424-3622.





## WORDS OF INSPIRATION



Sobriety Celebration keynote speaker Gene Tagaban speaks to audience members during NVE's Sobriety Celebration at the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School gym on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. Photo by Emily Mesner/The Cordova Times

“I try to think about my ancestors that walked that trail. You see, I believe that they did everything they could ... to live, to make it, to survive, for me ... you see, your ancestors did everything in their existence to live and to survive for you. And I owe it to them.”

## Tagaban delivers keynote address

Gene Tagaban, “One Crazy Raven” is an influential storyteller, speaker, mentor, performer and counselor of the spirit.

Gene is of the Takdeintaan clan, the Raven, Freshwater Sockeye clan from Hoonah, AK. He is the Child of the Wooshkeetaan, the Eagle, Shark clan from Juneau, AK. He is of the wolf clan from his Cherokee heritage and his last name Tagaban comes from his Filipino heritage.

Gene's passion is working with the people

teaching performing, presenting, and facilitating workshops on prevention, empowerment, leadership, relationship, communication, self-awareness, spirit, honor and healing.

Gene is a teller of stories that teach, entertain and heal. He has been a featured teller at storytelling festivals nationally and internationally sharing traditional Native stories as well as stories from his personal experience, family and historical events.

Gene was honored to perform with the Dalai Lama at the “Seeds of Compassion” gath-

ering in Seattle, WA and the Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary with Jane Goodall.

Gene is a board member of the Native Wellness Institute and Seattle's Native youth theater company “Red Eagle Soaring.” He is a trainer of COMPASS, a men's mentorship program with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Gene works with the Nisqually tribe as a Case Worker and Community Outreach. He is also a specialty instructor and honorary uncle with the Wilderness Awareness School.





## DANCE PERFORMANCES







## ***Thank you dance groups!***

*Tatitlek Dancers – Tatitlek*

*Cordova Ikumat Native Dancers – Cordova*

*Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers – Kodiak*

*Yees Ku Oo Dance Group – Juneau*

*Mt. St. Elias Dancers – Yakutat*

*Ke ex' Kwaan Dancers – Kake*







## WELLNESS



## 25th annual Sobriety Celebration

BY EMILY MESNER

*The Cordova Times*

Dance groups from Kake, Juneau, Yakutat, Tatitlek, Cordova and Kodiak performed during the weekend of Nov. 8-11, while speakers delivered messages of strength, sobriety and Native pride.

"It's gotten a lot bigger," Belen Cook said of the event. "We have more dance groups ... more speakers ... more participation, but especially this year, it seemed like it had a very special energy or touch to it."

Jewelry, blankets and paintings were sold during the arts and crafts and food fair at the high school on Nov. 10.

Belen, the event coordinator for the past 15 years, starts preparing for it in January.

"My favorite part is seeing people come together and celebrate sobriety, support the people that are in sobriety and the group effort ...," she said.

About 25 NVE staff helped at the event along numerous community volunteers.

The traditional subsistence potlatch featured a variety of seafood, including Dungeness and king crab, Sitka spot shrimp and razor and steamer clams, purchased by NVE. Moose was also offered at the potlatch, catered by Chris Belgarde, thanks to a subsis-

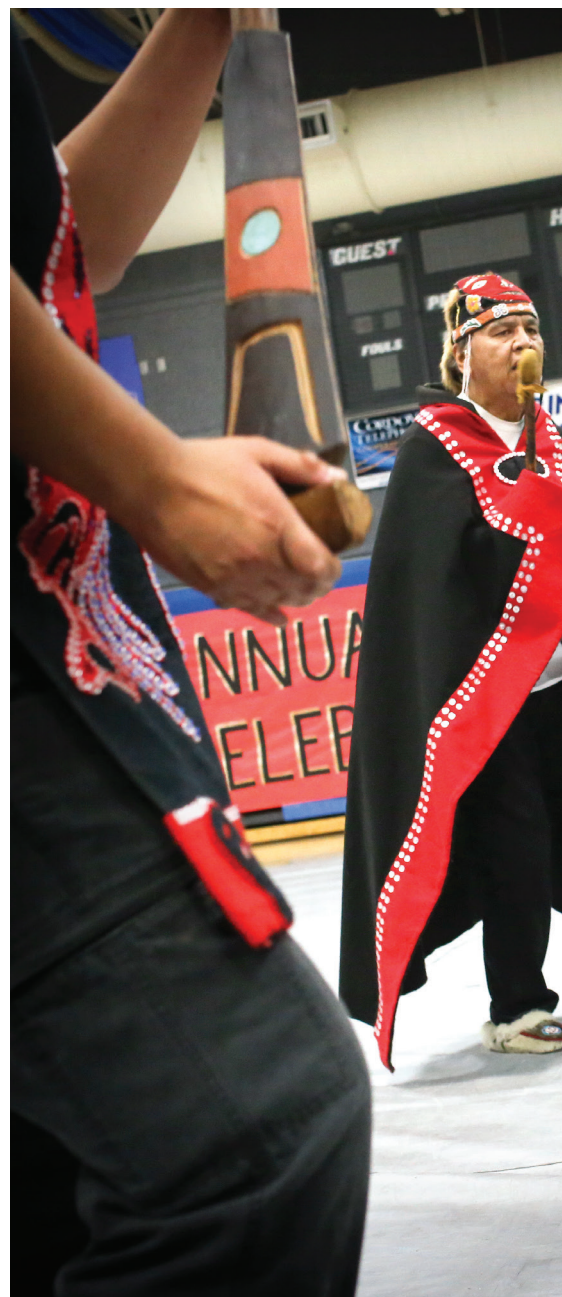


tence permit for the village.

Guest speaker Brandon Johnson, of the Raven Clan, and four years sober, spoke passionately about how unity helped him throughout his sobriety.

"We are all tied together," he said. "I say we are all weavers. This is what we do. This is how we live. This is how we survive. This is why I can say I'm proud to be Tlingit. This is why I can say I am proud to be from Yakutat, but most of all, I'm proud to be from Alaska."

Johnson, currently a Juneau resident, met with elders, performed and also spoke about



issues facing Alaska Natives during the weekend.

Keynote speaker Gene Tagaban, who is Tlingit, Cherokee and Filipino, spoke of the power of ancestors.

During the Trail of Tears in 1838, the United States government forced the relocation of thousands of Native Americans in the southeast U.S. from their ancestral homelands, and 4,000 Cherokee people died.

"I try to think about my ancestors that walked that trail," he said. "You see, I believe that they did everything they could ... to live, to make it, to survive, for me ... you see, your ancestors did everything in their existence to





live and to survive for you. And I owe it to them.”

Numerous speakers approached the podium, sharing stories and moments of triumph in their journey of sobriety.

A sobriety countdown, beginning at 50 years, ended the night.

Off to the side, Walter Alexander Soboleff Jr. anxiously rocked side-to-side, getting the young dancers who lined the wall next to him excited.

When his turn came, Soboleff threw both hands into the air and made his way to the podium to receive his sobriety token for being clean and sober for 33 years.







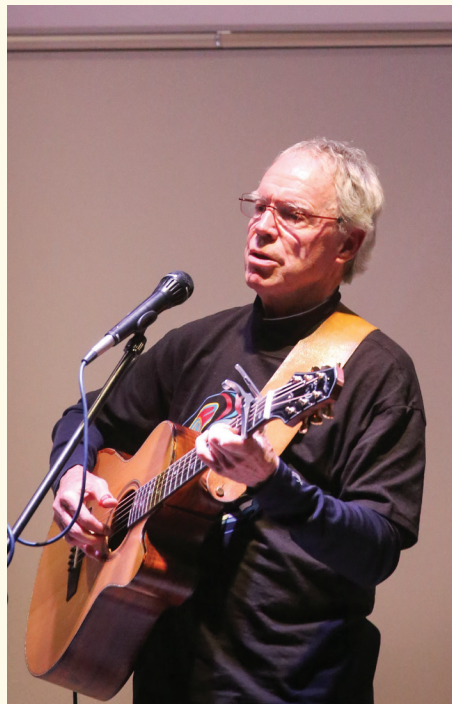




## Kick-Off Concert

Musicians Bobby Walker and Danny O'Keefe perform during the first night of NVE's Sobriety Celebration at the Cordova Jr./Sr. High School gym on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

*Photos by Emily Mesner*







## ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



## Medication Assisted Treatment

Treatment options  
for opioid addiction  
are now available.

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to one of our  
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ENTIRE COMMUNITY



## *Arts & Crafts and Food Fair*







# MEMORIAL POTLATCH



## *Traditional subsistence dinner*

ABOVE: From left, Todd Ladd, Bob Ladd, Matt Piche, and Jimmy Paley, prepare crab for NVE's Sobriety Celebration community traditional subsistence potlatch dinner on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. *Photos by Emily Mesner/The Cordova Times*







## Food Distribution Program

on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

### WHAT IS FDPIR AND HOW DO ALASKA TRIBES APPLY?

The FDPIR is a federal program that provides a month's supply of supplemental nutritious foods to income eligible Alaska Native, American Indian, and non-Indian households residing on a reservation or in a federally recognized (Alaska Native) tribal community, or in approved near-areas containing at least one tribal enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.

Federally recognized tribes in Alaska are all eligible to administer FDPIR provided they can to follow USDA regulations to guarantee food safety, protect client privacy, and meet on-time reporting requirements.

### HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

A household application for FDPIR is available in a few select Alaska tribal communities. Households can apply and be deemed income eligible on the same day they contact a tribal agency that administers the FDPIR program. To view a current list of active federally recognized tribes administering the FDPIR program in Alaska visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpir/fdpir-contacts>

### WHAT FOODS DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER?

Each month income eligible households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 70 products including, but not limited to:

- Fresh Produce
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meats, poultry, and fish
- Canned soups and spaghetti sauce
- Macaroni and cheese; pastas; cereals; rice; and other grains
- Cheese; egg mix; and nonfat dry and evaporated milk
- Flour; cornmeal; bakery mix; and reduced sodium crackers
- Low-fat refried beans; dried beans; and dehydrated potatoes
- Canned juices and dried fruit
- Peanuts and peanut butter
- Low fat buttery spread, butter & vegetable oil.

Find out more. Contact:

**Jessica Weaver**

907-424-7738

E-mail: [jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov](mailto:jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov)



## Food Distribution Program

The Native Village of Eyak is participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

This program is open to Alaska Native, American Indian, and non-Indian households residing in a federally recognized tribal community. Income eligible households will receive nutritional foods each month.

FDPIR also offers nutritional education, recipes and preparation tips! It is important to know that household members are not permitted to participate in both the Food Stamp Program and FDPIR at the same time.

### HOW TO APPLY

If you want to fill out an application contact Jessica Weaver

at 907-424-7738 or email her at [Jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov](mailto:Jessica.weaver@eyak-nsn.gov).

She will set up an interview with you and help you fill out the application.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NVE

View current available positions at

**WWW.NVEYAK.COM/JOBS**

or call NVE's Human Resources Manager Denna Francischetti at

**907-424-7738**

Full job descriptions and applications are available at NVE's main office at 110 Nicholoff Way, online at [www.nveyak.com/jobs/](http://www.nveyak.com/jobs/) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NativeVillageofEyak/>

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Contact Jackie Ladd,  
Elder Services Coordinator  
at (907) 424-7738 for more  
info on Elder Services,  
activities, and events!



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### *After School Club*

Monday-Thursday  
3:40-4:40 p.m. at Mt. Eccles

### *Junior Native Youth Olympics*

Starting in December  
at the Masonic Lodge, time TBA

### *Tribal Youth Council*

Last Wednesday of each month  
during Highschool lunch  
New location CHS boardroom

For more info, contact Jess at 907-424-2232



## Veterans honored, gifted quilts

ABOVE: From left, Dick Groff, Kay Adams, Jack Lundli, Jack Hopkins, Mark Steen, Sue Kesti, Dan Logan, Patty McGuire, Dennis McGuire, and Clyde Torgerson stand in front of the audience during the honoring veterans ceremony at NVE's Sobriety Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018. RIGHT: Veteran Jack Hopkins stands with his grandson Jack Lundli after being presented a quilt.

Photos by Wendy Ranney/for The Cordova Times

## Prince William Marina

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BOB LADD, MARINA MANAGER  
**907-253-4332**

EMAIL: BOB.LADD@EYAK-NSN.GOV

## Tribal Court Judges Needed

The Native Village of Eyak Judicial Department is looking for a tribal member interested in becoming Tribal Court judge.

Core requirements include being an NVE tribal member over the age of 21 and a successful background check.

For more information about the application process, contact Tribal Judicial Systems Administrator Sarah Kathrein

**907-424-7880**

sarah.kathrein@eyak-nsn.gov or courtclerk@eyak-nsn.gov







# Quyana Tsai-nen Gunai'cheesh

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 Cordova Community Medical Center  
 Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP  
 Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP  
 Reluctant Fisherman  
 Prince William Sound Science Center

Ocean Beauty-Brian 'O'Leary  
 BP  
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 Knot Crazy  
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 Valarie Simon  
 In Memory of Cookie Cook  
 F/V Belen C.  
 Pam Smith  
 Mark Hoover  
 Seafood Sales  
 Kodiak Alutiiq Dance Group  
 Bruce and Shirley Cain  
 Mt Saint Elias Dance Group  
 Moss Cape  
 Copper River IT  
 Copper River ES  
 TAC G  
 Alaska Mental Health Trust-Grant  
 Yees Ko Oo Dance Group  
 Peterson Welding and Machine  
 Ke ex' Kwaan Dancers  
 Gene Tagaban



## Native Village of Eyak

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